

REMARKS

Examination is requested based upon the amendments made via this Preliminary Amendment and the application as amended with the substituted sheets annexed to International Preliminary Report on Patentability.

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in this application, as amended. By this Preliminary Amendment, the claims have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependencies, improve legibility and conform to U.S. practice.

The specification has been amended to include the addition of the required headings for the U.S. and the addition of paragraph numbers. The Substitute Specification also includes the claims as amended above. No other changes were made, and no new matter has been introduced.

Early consideration and allowance of the pending claims as amended, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

The inventive system and method allows the control of shielding gas in an electric welding apparatus having automatic wire feed by controlling the flow rate of the shielding gas as a function of the wire feeding speed and/or the welding current obtained. A control circuit 112 receives an input signal 203 that is representative for the wire feeding speed and/or the welding current, and issues, in response to the input signal 203, a control signal 206 to a controllable flow control valve 110 in a gas supply line 201, 202, 208, which passes shielding gas from a tank 101, via a regulator valve 102, to a discharge nozzle of the welding apparatus welding gun. An adjusting unit 113 provides an operator with an interface which permits adjustment of the parameters that determine the flow rate function.